



## **H. Res. 921 - Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4253, with an amendment - Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2007**

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### FLOOR SITUATION

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The Resolution concurring with the Senate amendments to H.R. 4253 is expected on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Jason Altmire (D-PA) on December 4, 2007. H.R. 4253 passed the House on December 6, 2007, by a vote of 407 to 2. ([Roll Call 1138](#))

The measure passed the Senate with an amendment by unanimous consent on December 16, 2007.

H.Res. 921 is expected to be considered on January 16, 2008.

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### BACKGROUND

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The Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Veterans Business Development acts as a liaison to the Veterans business community. It also oversees the Federal procurement programs for Veteran- and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned small businesses.

The SBA runs the Veterans Business Outreach Program which offers business training, counseling, technical assistance, and mentoring to service-disabled veteran business owners. There are currently five selected organizations which administer the Veterans Business Outreach Program located in New York, Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas, and California.

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### SUMMARY

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#### New provisions included in the Senate amendment

H.R. 4253 limits the amount of time the SBA Administrator may extend the date by which eligible reservists can apply for a loan to be no more than one year.

Additionally, the bill requires the Office of Advocacy of the Administration to conduct a study and report to Congress detailing any obstacles impeding veterans from starting their own business, and to make recommendations for eliminating such barriers.

The bill stipulates guidelines by which the SBA Administrator is to apply any fee, or waiver thereof, on a veteran participation loan.

#### Provisions contained in both the House and Senate-passed versions of the bill

H.R. 4253 authorizes \$2.1 million for fiscal year 2008 and \$2.3 million for fiscal year 2009 for the Office of Veterans Business Development.



# LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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The bill establishes an Interagency Task Force to increase capital and business development opportunities for small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans.

It permanently extends the Small Business Administration's Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs.

H.R. 4253 requires the SBA Administrator to ensure that Veteran Business Outreach Centers participate in the Department of Labor's Transition Assistance Program (TAP). It also establishes a Women Veterans Business Training Resource Program.

*\*Note: This provision was passed by the House of Representatives by voice vote on June 18, 2007 as a part of the SBA Veterans' Programs Act of 2007 (H.R. 2366) sponsored by Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL).*

The bill authorizes the SBA to make grants between \$75,000 and \$250,000 each for Veterans Assistance Small Business program to provide online counseling and distance learning for veterans and members of the Armed Forces to overcome the impediments to entrepreneurship they face, increase coordination among veterans assistance organizations, and create a marketing campaign to promote awareness of the services.

*\*Note: This provision was also included in H.R. 2366 sponsored by Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL).*

The bill increases the authorization for reservist loans from \$1.5 million to \$2 million. The bill prohibits the SBA Administrator from making a loan of more than \$50,000 without collateral. It also allows the Administrator to defer payment of principal and interest on a loan for a one-year period beginning on the date of disbursement or the period during which the relative essential employee is on active duty, whichever is longer.

This bill requires the Comptroller General of the United States to issue a report to Congress regarding the types of assistance and resources needed by service-disabled veterans who wish to become entrepreneurs, and to conduct a study on options for promoting positive working relations between employers and their reserve component employees.

The legislation also requires the SBA Administrator to carry out an Increased Veteran Participation Program which would provide loans to businesses where the majority ownership interest of which is directly held by individuals who are veterans of the Armed Forces or who are Armed Forces reservists.

*\*Note: This provision was contained in the Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007 (H.R. 1332), which passed the House of Representatives on April 25, 2007, by a vote of 380 to 45.*

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## COST

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The Congressional Budget Office has not scored this legislation.

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## STAFF CONTACT

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